

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 03802 270821Z

22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OTPE-00 DHA-02 VO-03

SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00 /109 W
----- 027954

R 270631Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1469

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3802

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTANI GOODWILL MISSION TO DACCA

SUMMARY. THE FOUR-DAY PAKISTANI GOODWILL MISSION TO BANGLADESH
JULY 20 TO 24 RESULTED IN AN INVITATION TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY
TO RETURN THE VISIT AND IN AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE FURTHER TRADE
DELEGATIONS. ALTHOUGH A RANGE OF TOPICS WAS DISCUSSED, THE
BANGLADESHIS ARE DOWN PLAYING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE VISIT, PRE-
FERRING INSTEAD TO SEE THE TALKS AS THE "BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA"
AND EMPHASIZING THAT SOLUTIONS TO OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WOULD HAVE
TO COME "STEP BY STEP OVER TIME." END SUMMARY

1. A THREE-MEMBER PAKISTAN GOODWILL DELEGATION, LED BY FOREIGN
AFFAIRS SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI AND INCLUDING COMMERCE SECRETARY
EJAZ AHMED MAIK, HELD FOUR DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS, JULY 20-24 IN
DACCA, WITH A BANGLADESH TEAM HEADED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK
HUSAIN. DURING THE VISIT, THE DELEGATION CALLED SEPARATE-
LY ON PRESIDENT SAYEM, DCMLA'S GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 03802 270821Z

ADMIRAL M.H. KHAN, AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR FOR PLANNING,

INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE AND FOREIGN TRADE, DR. M.N. HUDA. A JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED FRIDAY JULY 24 AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS ANNOUNCED THAT A WIDE RANGE OF BILATERAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING THE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE TRADE DELEGATIONS IN THE SHIPPING AND BANKING FIELDS. THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND THE PROPOSAL FOR A THIRD WORLD SUMMIT ALSO WERE DISCUSSED. FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT PAKISTAN.

2. PAK FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHI, TALKING WITH NEWSMEN ON HIS ARRIVAL, STRESSED THAT THE TALKS WOULD BE "SIGNIFICANT" BECUASE IT WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME THAT OFFICIAL LEVEL TALKS WOULD HAVE "SOME POLITICAL CONTENT." ASKED BY REPORTERS THE NATURE OF THIS POLITICAL CONTENT, SHAHI MERELY STATED THAT "ALL OF YOU UNDERSTANDIT AND I SHOULD NOT BE SPECIFIC." SHAHI WENT ON TO SAY THAT "WE SHALL SHARE OUR THINKING ON WORLD DEVELOPMENTS, THE REGION AND HOW BEST OUR RELATIONS COULD BE DEVELOPED." SHAHI QUOTED AN EARLIER STATEMENT BY PM BHUTTO THAT THE PAKISTANI PEOPLE WOULD STAND BY THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH "AT ALL TIMES, GOOD OR BAD."

3. ACCORDING TO THE DACCA NEWSPAPERS, THE SECRETARY-LEVEL TALKS LASTING ABOUT FOUR HOURS ON WEDNESDAY REVIEWED NOT ONLY BILATERAL MATTERS, BUT AS SHAHI, SAID, "THE INCREASING INVOLVMENT OF NON-REGIONAL COUNTRIES AND MAJOR POWERS IN THE POLITICAL ARENA" IN SOUTH ASIA. IN BILATERAL MATTERS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT A FREQUENT EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS WOULD WORK OUT DETAILS CONCERNING BANKING OPERATION, TELE-COMMUNICATIONS, AIR SERVICE, SHIPPING AND VISA ISSUES. SHAHI DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS CORDIAL AND "HELD IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL TRUST, CONFIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING."

4. THE ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY, M.A. CHOUDHURY, TOLD THE DCM AND THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR JULY 26 THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO AGENDA FOR THE VISIT AND THAT ANY SOLUTION TO THE NUMEROUS ISSUES BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN WOULD HAVE TO COME "STEP BY STEP" AND OVER TIME". HE SUGGESTED THAT A FIRST STEP MIGHT BE TO IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF COMMUNICATIONS, NOTING, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE PRESENT RADIO-TELEPHONE LINKAGE IS VERY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 03802 270821Z

POOR. ONE ISSUE THAT THE MFA RAISED INFORMALLY WITH MEMBERS OF THE PAKISTANI DELEGATIONS WAS THE NEED FOR AN AGREEMENT ON VISAS. THE BDG OBJECTS TO THE FACT THAT PAKISTANI PASS-PORTS ARE NOW STAMPED TO LIMIT THEM TO THREE-MONTHS VALIDITY FOR VISITS TO BANGLADESH. MOREOVER, CHOUDHURY SAID, THE PRESENT SYSTEM BY WHICH EACH COUNTRY ISSUES PERMITS RATHER THAN VISAS FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH CARRIES AN IMPLICATION OF RELATIONS LESS THAN THOSE BETWEEN TWO

SOVERIGN GOVERNMENTS.

5. ON SPECIFIC BILATERAL PROBLEMS, CHOUDHURY MENTIONED THAT THE TIMING OF THE REPATRIATION OF THE 12,000 NON-BENGALIS TO PAKISTAN HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AS WELL AS THE QUESTION OF CARGO DESTINED FOR CHITTAGONG IN 1971, INCLUDING RAIL WAGONS, WHICH HAD BEEN OFF LOADED IN KARACHI. NO DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THESE ISSUES, NOR ON THE OVER-ALL QUESTION OF DIVISION OF ASSETS. BOTH SIDES, HE SAID, HAD AGREED ONLY THAT SOME MODUS OPERANDI FOR THE GENERAL RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES WAS NEEDED; CHOUDHURY MENTIONED THE PRECEDENT OF TRANSFER OF POWER ACT OF 1947 WHICH GOVERNED THE DIVISION OF ASSETS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN AT THE TIME OF PARTITION. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT AGA SHAHI HAD MADE IT CLEAR "OFF THE RECORD" THAT NOT MUCH PROGRESS ON THESE ISSUES COULD BE EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS IN PAKISTAN.

6. CHOUDHURY DID NOT COMMENT ON THE MULTILATERAL ISSUES RAISED IN THE TALKS, BUT ANOTHER MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFFS ON JULY 26 THAT AGA SHAHI WAS CONCERNED, AMONG OTHER TOPICS, WITH THE PROMINENCE OF INDIA IN THE NAM AND EXPRESSED FEAR THAT IN ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA, NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WOULD AS A GROUP SIDE WITH INDIA.

7. COMMENT. THE BANGLADESHIS HAVE CHOSEN TO VIEW THE TALKS, IN THE WORDS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR THE SUBCONTINENT ABDUL BARI, AS "THE BEGINNING OF A NEW DIALOGUE", AND ANY HOPES THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE ENTERTAINED ON RESOLVING OUTSTANDING ISSUES OBVIOUSLY WERE DISAPPOINTED. BARI NOTED TO THE DCM JULY 22 THAT MOST OF THE DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN RESTRICTED TO THE SENIOR LEVEL (BARI HIMSELF ATTENDED ONLY ONE SESSION), A FACT WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT NONE OF THE BILATERAL ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH. FORM AGA SHAHI'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DACCA 03802 270821Z

COMMENTS TO THE PRESS AND THE TIMING OF THE VISIT SO SHORTLY BEFORE COLOMBO NAM, WE WOULD VENTURE THAT THE PAKISTANI WERE PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH REGIONAL POLITICS AS THEY MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING.
BOSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONCILIATION, GOODWILL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DACCA03802
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760288-0952
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760719/aaaaaqge.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTANI GOODWILL MISSION TO DACCA SUMMARY. THE FOUR-DAY PAKISTANI GOODWILL MISSION TO BANGLADESH
TAGS: PFOR, BG, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006